

In the Matter of) WT Docket No. 05-235
)
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules)
To Implement WRC-03 Regulations Applicable to)
Requirements for Operator Licenses in the)
Amateur Radio Service)

COMMENTS OF LESLIE T. JAMISON, JR.

1. These are the comments of Leslie T. Jamison, Jr. (“this commenter”), license grantee of amateur station WR3X and an Amateur Extra Class licensee. It is being filed in response to the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* (“Notice”) in the heading Docket. This commenter is a volunteer examiner (“VE”) and a volunteer license examination preparation instructor. As such, this commenter has great interest in the future well being of our amateur service and for maintaining harmony and goodwill within our amateur service community. Success in this endeavor would allow our amateur service community to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service and would better enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public.

2. In the Notice, the Commission proposes to revise our amateur service rules to eliminate the telegraphy testing requirement for a General or Amateur Extra Class operator license grant. It believes that this proposed rule change will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees. This commenter, however, takes exception on two very critical issues:

CONTINUE THE TELEGRAPHY REQUIREMENT FOR AN AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS LICENSE GRANT

3. Our telegraphy examinations have served our amateur service exceptionally well, ever since the very dawn of radio over a century ago when practically no one - other than our fledgling amateur service community - even knew there was such a thing as radio. Our top-rank Amateur Extra Class is now composed of our 106,909 most expert operators¹, all of which are telegraphy qualified. We are perfectly decentralized throughout all of our United States and Territories. It took nearly 54-years of study, training, examination and work to build this highly respected and important National resource.² It stands as an inspiration to all lesser-qualified operators as to the high level of individual expertise that is achievable in our amateur service. It should not be compromised in any way. It ain't broke, so don't try to fix it 'til it is broke. Therefore, this commenter urges the Commission to not adopt its proposal to discontinue its requirement for a telegraphy proficiency demonstration necessary to qualify for this class of license grant, at least. Such continuation will help us maintain our cadre of Amateur Extra Class operators. This will allow our amateur service community to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service and would better enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees than would the deletion of the requirement.

REQUIRE EXAMINEES FOR AN AMATEUR OPERATOR LICENSE TO FIRST TAKE A COURSE ADMINISTERED IN A TRAINING CLASS

4. During my many years as a VE, I have come across far too many examinees that - although they passed our written examination - really were not

¹ As of July 5, 2005.

² The Amateur Extra Class became available on January 1, 1952 as a result of action taken in the Report and Order in Docket 9295.

qualified to operate an amateur station properly. This is not true, however, in the case of those examinees who take have taken a training course in one of our examination preparation classes. The untrained, apparently, have simply memorized the correct answers for the volunteer-examiner coordinators' question pools without gaining any understanding of their meaning. I am convinced, therefore, that all candidates for an amateur operator license grant must be required to first take a course in a training class approved by the coordinating VEC. Such an amendment would allow our amateur service community to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service and would better enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public.

SUMMARY

5. The amendments proposed therein, with the two revisions described above, will facilitate the future well being of our amateur service and for maintaining harmony and goodwill within our amateur service community. Such continuation would allow our amateur service community to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service and would better enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie T. Jamison, Jr.
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